

May 2, 2023

House Health Care Committee
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Dear Chair Houghton, Vice Chair McFaun, and Health Care committee members,

I am writing to express my strong support for **H.369, "An act relating to health insurance and Medicaid coverage for fertility-related services"** and respectfully ask that the committee advance this bill next year. This legislation would require private health insurance plans and Vermont Medicaid to provide coverage for fertility care.

Health insurance policies in Vermont should provide coverage for fertility diagnostic care, fertility treatment, and medically necessary fertility preservation.

After easily conceiving our son in 2018, we did not anticipate challenges getting pregnant with another child when we started trying in 2020. After having trouble conceiving of 6 months of trying we sought help from a local fertility clinic. Medical complications from the delivery of my son which caused undiscovered issues in my uterus lead to an internality diagnosis. After almost 3 years of medications, 4 hysteroscopy surgeries, 4 IUI procedures, and now on our third round of IVF, we are growing desperate to try to grow our family. My partner's employer, who is located in a neighboring state, offers private health insurance that covers infertility treatments and we are lucky and privileged to be able to have this coverage. However, the "lifetime maximum" of infertility coverage that is offered in our plan does not even cover three rounds of IVF. It is known that IVF typically requires multiple rounds to be successful. Due to lack of funds to cover IVF expenses, we will not pursue further treatment after this third round if it does not work. It hurts and angers me to think that all people have the right to grow their families and do not have the chance to because they do not have a "lifetime maximum" coverage amount, or ANY health care coverage for infertility treatments at all. The chance to grow your family if you have infertility is based on wealth and finances, and this is simply not fair. Infertility impacts 1 in 6 couples and is a medical diagnosis. All Vermonters should have the right to receive treatment for this diagnosis that robs families of their lifelong dreams. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Antonia Harty

30 Tamarack Drive, Essex Junction VT 05452

antoniaharty@gmail.com